



KANEOHE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 30

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2006 WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE AKOAKOA ROOM

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Larry Zdvoracek called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Karasaki, Clyde Morita, Patty Yamashiro-Hironaka, John Sabas, Wendell Lum, Roy Yanagihara, Paul Friel, John Flanigan, Elizabeth Gaisthia, L.C. Morris, Glenn Ida, Larry Zdvoracek.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felipe San Nicolas and Bill Sager.

GUESTS: Wanda Mae Iseki, Niko Koga Rock Rose Tavern), Lani Almanza, Tammy U. Rodriguez, Annette Tashiro, Katherine Marrone, Ashley Crowell (Castle High School Student Council), Dorothea Pale, Lorraine Soriano, Isaia Pale, Isia Pale, Jr., Chelsea Pale (Kulana Nani Apartments Residents), Jim Henshaw (Senator Bor Hogue's Office), Venus Acoba (Councilmember Barbara Marshall's Office), David Crama, Jim Woods (WAA), April Goya, Lianne Ashikawa (U.S. Congressman Ed Case's Office), Bill Russell, Sarah Fry (MCBH), Keith Gutierrez, McKenna Nakamura, Representative Brian Schatz, Robin Makapagal, Representative Pono Chong, Lt. Richard Robinson (HPD), Firefighter Daniel Kong (HFD), Nola Frank (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

FILLING OF VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICTS 1, 2, AND 11 – There no interested persons present to fill the vacancies.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – By unanimous consent, the Board accepted the January 2006 regular meeting minutes as circulated.

7:07 p.m. Sabas arrived (10 members present).

PUBLIC INPUT & RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

Hawaii State Hospital – Bill Sager read a handout with excerpt articles from the Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu Star-Bulletin dated February 8 and 11, 2006 relative to the budgetary and crowding problems at the Hawaii State Hospital. The hospital is licensed to house 190 patients, but budgeted for 168. The hospital may be short staffed from six to eight workers on any given day. A comment in the handout from HGEA field services officer Sanford Chun, states that they understand that the hospital may not be able to control the number of patients admitted, but they certainly still hold the hospital accountable to provide adequate staffing for an established acuity system that the hospital uses. Sager mentioned that several Board members attended a site visit last year.

Questions, answers and comments followed: Flanigan said that he did not understand the comment made by Chun. Sager responded that the under curriculum as it stands, make it difficult for the hospital to accomplish what they must do.

Bill Sager was thanked for attending the meeting.

Koolau Village Housing Project – Tammy Rodriguez, area manager for the Koolau Village housing project, updated the following: Upon taking the manager position in March of 2005, several residents approached her requesting the installation of clotheslines. Previous clotheslines for the tenants were removed and never replaced. The issue was taken to her manager, and the clotheslines will be installed at no cost to the residents.

Questions, answers and comments followed: (a) Lum communicated that currently residents have put clotheslines up and attached it to the fence. He knows that some of the residents cannot afford clothes dryers.



Rodriguez replied some residents have make-shift clotheslines. She stated if clotheslines are up when HUD does their inspection the project is penalized and loses funding. (b) Rodriguez manages five projects in the Kaneohe/Kahalu'u areas.

Representative Brian Schatz – The Representative introduced himself and informed Board and guests that he is running for Congress. He currently serves as Vice Chair for the Consumer Protection Committee. Contact him at 384-7236 with any concerns.

Follow up on Rock Rose Tavern's Application for a Liquor License – Board member Ida reported that testimonies were given at a Liquor Commission last Thursday at a hearing. A two-week moratorium was imposed and mediation between parties was recommended.

Niko Koga, owner of the tavern, gave the following results of the mediation meeting: A) A meeting of the minds took place with herself, Erin and Mike Furuya, and Dane. The noise from the tavern would be controlled with Karaoke singing ending at 10:00 p.m. Also agreed upon was to have the tavern's windows boarded, install carpet on the floors and continue with open communication.

Questions, answers and comments followed: 1) In response to Lum, all conditions agreed upon will be put in writing. 2) Sabas inquired of Koga, in what capacity is her position with the company. She answered that she is the owner of Koauka Inc. and Rock Rose Tavern. 3) Mike thanked the Board for initiating the letter of opposition to the Liquor Commission. He stated that communication is now good between all parties involved. Per the Liquor Commission, Rock Rose Tavern's liquor license must be renewed in one-year.

O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization – Lum reported the deadline for submitting comments relative to the O'ahu Regional Transportation Plan 2030 (ORTP) is March 15, 2006. He pointed out that \$2.5 billion is proposed for rail and transit systems to include Waianae, Waipahu, Pearl City and Aiea. However, Kaneohe was neglected and not incorporated in the plans. Support is being sought from the City Council and legislative staff to include Kaneohe to the rail and transit systems list.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

American Cancer Society – Lani Almanza announced that the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" would be held on March 31 and April 1 on the great lawn at the Windward Community College. Money earned at this fundraising event will be used for cancer research.

Lani Alonzo was thanked for attending the meeting.

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Lum was thanked for his report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Gaisthia reported the following: (A) January 2006 – Operating Account: previous expenditures were \$177.22 leaving a balance of \$1,311; incurring no expenditures in the Publicity and Refreshment Accounts the balances remain at \$2,367.00 and \$120.00 respectively. (B) December 2005 – Operating Account expenditures were \$24.65, leaving a balance of \$1,342.78; the Publicity and Refreshment Accounts incurred no expenditures, leaving balances of \$2,367 and \$120 respectively.

Gaisthia was thanked for her report.

PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY REPORT:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lt. Robinson reported the following:

- 1) Statistics for last month included: burglary 10, other property thefts 49, UEMV (unauthorized entry into motor vehicle) 30, robbery 1, and auto/motorcycle theft 29.
- 2) A graffiti arrest was made on January 12 at Castle High School.
- 3) Three arrests were made in Kailua.
- 4) Due to the continued increased enforcement of parks, crime numbers have decreased.

Questions, answers and comments followed. Yanagihara mentioned statistics show an increase in robberies since last year. Lt. Robinson replied the areas include from Waimanalo to Crawford Homes. Although the numbers are high, the robberies are low level.

Lt. Robinson was thanked for his report.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter Daniel Kong reported the following:

- 1) January 2006 statistics included 2 structure, 0 brush, 1 rubbish, and 1 vehicle fires; emergencies included 74 medical, 2 search/rescue, and 11 miscellaneous responses. There were no major or unusual incidents.
- 2) Fire Safety Tip – Every home should have a WORKING smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level. Since cooking vapors and steam can set off a smoke detector, the detector should be located away from the kitchen or bathroom. Wall-mounted detectors should be positioned 4 to 12 inches below the ceiling and away from air vents.
- 3) Results from a survey conducted of 80,000 elementary school students in which 48,000 responded were 87% of the homes had smoke detectors and 2% were not certain whether one existed. Of the 87%, 67% of the families tested their detector that month and only 71% of the smoke detectors were operational.
- 4) This survey enforced HFD's belief that, "Every home should have a WORKING smoke detector installed near each sleeping area on every level."

Questions, answers and comments followed: Follow up will be done to provide Board member Lum with the address requested last month in the Crown Terrace area. Kong replied flooding occurred at the bottom of Heeia Street.

Firefighter Daniel Kong was thanked for his report.

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (MCBH) – Sarah Fry reported the following:

- 1) February 10-23: Nine F/A-18Ds ("Hornets") from VMFA-242, at MCAF for joint training with Hawaii Air National Guard.
- 2) February 22-23: Extended Airfield Hours: In support of Navy and Marine squadron operations, extended hours at the MCAF will be 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday; 10:00 a.m. to midnight, Wednesday; and 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Thursday.
- 3) March 10-13: Makahiki Season Closing Ceremonies – Several local Native Hawaiian families with genealogical ties to Mokapu Peninsula and their invited guests will gather at MCBH, Kaneohe Bay to participate in this annual celebration. For the third consecutive year, a traditional Hawaiian welcoming will be conducted on Saturday morning, March 11, for a number of Makahiki celebrants who will paddle canoes across Kaneohe Bay, from Kualoa Beach Park to Mokapu Peninsula. For details about this annual event, call the MCBH Public Affairs Office at 257-8832 or 257-8840. Fry mentioned anyone wanting to receive her report via email to call her office.

Sarah Fry was thanked for her report.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Representative – Lester Chang reported the following:

- 1) The Mayor's newsletter was distributed for interested persons to review.
- 2) Volunteers from the Career Development Center are assisting the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) with the cleanup and repairs of the comfort stations at Magic Island. Plumbing and painted have been completed.
- 3) The Mayor's State of the City Address, Friday, February 24, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.
- 4) The Waimea Valley issue had good results.
- 5) 100th City Anniversary "Family Festival" is scheduled for March 31 to April 3, 2006 at Magic Island.

Questions, answers and comments followed: In response to Lum about adding the Kaneohe area to the ORTP, Chang suggested he fill out a Mayor's concern form for processing.

Lester Chang was thanked for attending the meeting.

Councilmember Barbara Marshall – Ikaika Anderson distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

- 1) Venus Acoba, new staff member for Councilmember Marshall was introduced.
- 2) Reported this is budget season for the Council.
- 3) Please call the office at 547-7003 with issues or concerns.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

- 1) Lum asked for support of including Kaneohe in the O'ahu Regional Transportation Plan. He explained that Kaneohe was included in the plan under the former Administration. Anderson will discuss the issue with Councilmember Marshall.
- 2) Regarding the King Intermediate School stoplight, Yanagihara commended the Councilmember for her persistence with the issue per the requests of her constituents.
- 3) Yanagihara asked if the Councilmember has contemplated the safety issue of the crosswalk fronting Star Market on Kamehameha Highway where a pedestrian fatality occurred. Anderson replied that she is aware of the situation.

Ikaika Anderson and Venus Acoba were thanked for attending the meeting.

Governor's Representative – Katherine Thomason was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

U.S. Congressman Ed Case – Lianne Ashikawa circulated the monthly report and the Talk Story with Congressman Ed Case schedule. She reported statewide workshops would help groups apply for Native Hawaiian Education Program grants.

Lianne Ashikawa was thanked for attending the meeting.

Senator Bob Hogue – Jim Henshaw distributed Senate District 24 survey results with the overview that were sent to constituents. He reported the House would crossover a bill to repeal the gas cap law.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

- 1) In response to Flanigan, prior to the gas cap, Hawaii's gas prices were fifty-cents above the National average; it is currently fifty to sixty-cents above average.
- 2) Lum asked for support from the Senator incorporating the Kaneohe area in O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization's ORTP.
- 3) Since the survey results showed no indication of who did the draft, Sabas asked if there is room for bias. Henshaw answered the survey was first done by a Senator's aide.
- 4) Chair Zdvoracek asked if the surveys were mailed one per household. Henshaw replied they were sent to one household in the Senator's district. Results were sent to responders with return addresses.
- 5) Sabas inquired how much sampling was mailed out. Henshaw related the cost was approximately \$4,000.00, which was used from the taxpayer fund allocated to each office. About 12,000 to 13,000 surveys were mailed with approximately 800 responses sent back. Twenty-five responses received had no return address.
- 6) Yanagihara thanked the Senator and his office for doing a survey, but wanted to know what the Senator proposes to do with the findings from the survey. Henshaw replied that per the survey results of items one and two, repealing the gas cap. Yanagihara commented, why bother to do a survey if no action would be taken. Henshaw answered the Senator took action on the gas cap bill.
- 7) Karasaki requested a copy of the survey.

Senator Clayton Hee – The written report was available for interested persons to review.

Representative Ken Ito – The written report was available for interested persons to review.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) – No representative was present.

Hope Chapel – No representative was present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

New King Nissan Location – Robyn Macapagal expressed concern regarding the extremely glaring lights emitted from this business location on Keapuka Street. A call to the dealership resulted with her being told that they have permission to build. She is concerned because the location is on the edge of a neighborhood. She asked for input from Board members and guests to resolve this issue. She commented the extreme bright lights are an assault on the view of Kaneohe, distracting, and does not fit into the area.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Zdvoracek asked if the lights are brighter than the one surrounding Servco.
- 2) Jim Woods asked if the City has restrictions on lighting, and noted there must be some limit.
- 3) Lum mentioned that a friend of his son said that these lights affect residents' on Kokahiko Street. A response from King Nissan to Representative Ito's office said that the lights do not draw much current.
- 4) Resident Alonza expressed concern of the light remaining on after business hours.
- 5) Friel said the three-fourths of the lights are turned off after closing, and only the security lights are left on. He noted why should the lights be on full blown, and suggested the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) be contacted relative to requirements.

- 6) Macapagal expressed concern of light pollution for the birds in the area. She emphasized the Windward side should be protected.
- 7) Morita commented that Board members should first investigate the issue further before the Board attempts to address the issue. He volunteered to lead the research.
- 8) In response to Sabas, the New King Nissan is located in the Board's Subdistrict 9.
- 9) Chair Zdvoracek suggested contacting Board member Sager who heads the Board's Environmental Committee.

Representative Pono Chong – Representative Chong reported the following:

- 1) Due to a meeting, Rep. Ito sends his apologies for not being in attendance tonight.
- 2) Regarding the Kulana Nani Apartments, money has been proposed in the budget for the State to purchase the property fee from Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, which is a priority.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

- 1) Lum asked if efforts are being made regarding the Kukui Gardens project. Rep Chong replied another representative is working on a bill relative to that complex, and possible getting money from the surplus fund.
- 2) Resident Rodriguez inquired if the residents were informed. The response was the bills are far from completion. However, the Association and several residents have been contacted.
- 3) Lum questioned how is the State going to acquire the agriculture land in Waialua. Board member Sabas noted the area has no relevance to this Board.
- 4) The Representative mentioned that his goal for this session is to focus on school improvements. He plans to ask the Governor to release \$1 million for King Intermediate Schools and money for Castle High School.
- 5) Constituent issue were received relative to speeding in the Waikalau Road area, and left turn into Kokokahi.
- 6) Lum pointed out relative to the Kaneohe widening project there is no sidewalk. He stated that the sidewalk ends at the bridge. Rep. Chong answered that since the project was just completed he assumes there is no sidewalk for pedestrian safety. Follow up will be done.
- 7) Regarding how other housing complexes are affected by the sale of the land, only the Kulana Nani project has been brought to his attention. He noted that this is a community and legislative issue. Another big issues would be housing projects on privately owned land. Anderson of Councilmember Marshall's office mentioned that the Kulana Nani lease expires in 2048.

Representative Pono Chong was thanked for attending the meeting.

Traffic Concern: Pedestrian Safety at Crosswalk near Star Supermarket in Kaneohe –

Yanagihara asked if everyone was aware of the unfortunate accidents that occur at this crosswalk. Councilmember Barbara Marshall's office suggested this issue be put on the agenda to get community input for consideration. The following suggestions were given at the Agenda Planning Meeting – abolish, relocate, or is the location of the bus stop a causing factor.

Discussion followed:

- 1) Chair Zdvoracek asked if a pedestrian activated light was being suggested. He mentioned a pedestrian was not in the crosswalk last year when a death occurred.

- 2) Morris commented that the above crosswalk is a half block from the traffic light fronting Star Bucks. He suggested either remove or leave the crosswalk as it. He noted it is not practical to install a stoplight at that location.
- 3) Wood asked if the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) has been questioned on this matter, since Kamehameha Highway is under DOT jurisdiction.
- 4) Rep. Chong asked why was there opposition to the installation of a stoplight at King Intermediate School. The response was the Kahalu'u community objected because they said the stoplight would backup traffic on Kamehameha Highway to the Hygienic Store. Rep. Chong mentioned he is working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) relative to pedestrian activated stoplights.
- 5) The crosswalk would light up when the pedestrian light is activated. The City maintains all State stoplights.
- 6) Morita commented he checked the crosswalk in question and no one is proposing a stoplight at that location. The streetlights are 50 feet from the crosswalk. The mauka side of the street has good lighting. However, the makai side of the street (Star Market) has poor lighting due to the trees. He noted that when the crosswalk was designed there were no trees, which were planted some years later. He suggested installing a light that shines brightly. Also, it is the role of this Board to advocate action being taken for pedestrian safety.
- 7) Yanagihara agreed with Morita's suggestions, and asked if a flashing yellow light would help.
- 8) Sabas recommended a proposal to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to remove the crosswalk and have DTS propose other alternatives.
- 9) Lum stated that people would jaywalk.
- 10) Macapagal commented the crosswalk was installed prior to Kamehameha Highway increasing to four lanes and there were no side streets. She noted it is easy for people to resume old habits. She questioned the position of the bus stop. Yanagihara noted there is a bus stop expert on the Board.
- 11) Ida agreed that it is a dangerous situation. Alternate stops are at Kamehameha Highway and Haiku, and near Papa John's Pizza. People carrying large grocery bags do not want to walk to the other bus stops.
- 12) A resident commented that making a left turn out of the Star Market driveway going towards the Pali, she encountered people crossing in the crosswalk. It was suggested a possible "No Left Turn" from that exit.
- 13) Friel commented that left turns onto Kamehameha Highway for anyone is dangerous.
- 14) Yanagihara suggested a committee for recommendations on the issue. Chair Zdvoracek replied the Board's Transportation Committee has no chairperson.

Kulana Nani Apartments Residents' Concerns:

Resident Dorothea Pale expressed concern relative to a December 2005 newspaper article, "Asset management proposes to Mayor to sell City properties." She stated all the affordable City properties are subsidized by Housing, Urban Development (HUD). People renting those apartments live 50% to 80% below the rent median. Research indicates Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate is selling the property that Kulana Nani Apartments are on. Representative Ito is assisting with trying to have the State acquire the property. She noted that the City owns 12 affordable rental buildings. Contract with HUD ends in 2028, and it is the option of the new property owner to increase the rent or not. She emphasized that residents earn less than \$30,000 per year and stated what is deemed affordable is not affordable for this group of people. Answers are needed from the City because rentals in Hawaii are diminishing for people with fixed incomes.

Questions, answers and concerns:

Rodriguez commented the HUD program caps rent, which includes utilities. Renters also get assistance from Section 8 (rent supplement program), with the highest being 30% of the renter's income. A maintenance type fee was suggested. It was mentioned that the current non-profit managing agent is interested in purchasing the land and building. Three of the eight buildings on the property were renovated, but funding ran out. A larger block of City grant funding was suggested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee Reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next Regular Meeting will take place at the Windward Community College, Akoakoa Room on March 16, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by Nola J Frank, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed by Chair Larry Zdvoracek